

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4536

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7641

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, UR

SUBJ: GOA-USSR OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. DFA SECRETARY ALAN RENOUF PRESENTED ME NOVEMBER 21 WITH FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF FOURTH ROUND OF OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS HELD IN CANBERRA NOVEMBER 14 AND 15 BETWEEN USSR AND AUSTRALIA. SUSLOV, HEAD OF SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY, LED THE SOVIET SIDE; AND RENOUF, THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A BIT MORE GENUINE DIALOGUE THAN HAD OCCURRED IN PREVIOUS TALKS, RENOUF FELT THAT ALL THESE TALKS WERE RATHER UNREWARDING SINCE SOVIET OFFICIALS STUCK CLOSELY TO PARTY LINE AND REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT.

2. WITH REGARD TO WHITLAM'S VISIT TO USSR IN JANUARY, IT WAS AGREED THAT A CULTURAL RELATIONS AGREEMENT SHOULD BE READY FOR SIGNATURE WHEN PM IN MOSCOW. SUSLOV AGAIN MENTIONED SOVIET INTEREST IN BOTH CIVIL AVIATION AND
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MARITIME AGREEMENTS, BUT DID NOT PRESS.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SCENE,
FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS WHICH EMERGED:

A) INDIAN OCEAN: USSR FELT THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE ASKED
TO REDUCE ITS PRESENCE THERE UNILATERALLY. IT AGREED IN
PRINCIPLE TO A ZONE OF PEACE IN THAT REGION. SUSLOV
STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN TO USSR. RENOUF
AGAIN ASKED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION BE
DRAWN TO AUSTRALIA'S CONCERN THAT ANY ESCALATION OF THE
FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE COULD INCREASE THE RISK OF
CONFLICT.

B) CHINA: SUSLOV REGARDED THE LATEST CHINESE MOVES AS
PROPAGANDA RATHER THAN A SERIOUS GESTURE.

C) JAPAN: SUSLOV GAVE IMPRESSION THAT USSR WAS NOT
READY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON TERRITORIAL ISSUE.

D) MIDDLE EAST: FROM WHAT SUSLOV SAID, IT SEEMED THAT
SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB POSITION WAS NOW STRONGER THAN
EVER AND THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SEC-
RETARY KISSINGER'S ACTIVITIES. THEY WANTED A RECONVENING OF THE
GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CONTINUE TO
SUPPLY ARMS TO THE ARABS. SUSLOV DID NOT RESPOND TO
SUGGESTIONS THAT THESE SUPPLIES COULD INCREASE RISK OF A
NEW OUTBREAK OF WAR.

E) SALT: SUSLOV SEEMED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF
CURRENT TALKS WITH THE AMERICANS.

F) CAMBODIA: USSR CONTINUED TO SUPPORT SIHANOUK AND THE
ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES. SUSLOV SEEMED TO OVERESTIMATE
SIHANOUK'S INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA.

G) VIETNAM: SUSLOV BLAMED THE FAILURE OF THE PARIS AGREE-
MENT ON THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT.

H) CYPRUS: THE RUSSIANS WANTED WITHDRAWAL OF ALL
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FOREIGN FORCES AND A SOLUTION WHICH PRESERVED THE
INTEGRITY OF THE ISLAND. THEY WERE NOT AGAINST A
FEDERAL SOLUTION ON THIS BASIS. THEY STILL SUPPORTED
MAKARIOS. THEY WANTED AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER
UN AUSPICES TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM.

4. WHEN SUSLOV CALLED ON THE PRIMIN, THE LATTER MENTIONED
TO HIM THE REPRESENTATIONS WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE

JEWISH COMMUNITY ABOUT JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR. SUSLOV SAID THAT EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL FROM THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOW GREATER THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST AND THAT A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONS WAS PREVENTED FROM LEAVING. SUSLOV MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE PRIMIN COULD NOT RAISE THIS ISSUE IN MOSCOW, PROVIDED THAT NO STATEMENTS WERE MADE ABOUT SUCH DISCUSSIONS UNTIL AFTER THE PRIMIN DEPARTED FROM MOSCOW.

5. RENOUF ALSO MENTIONED REPRESENTATIONS WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE UKRANIAN COMMUNITY IN SYDNEY ABOUT THE UKRANIAN WRITER, VALENTYN MOROZ. THE UKRANIANS HERE SAID THAT MOROZ WAS IN VERY POOR HEALTH AND THEY FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. SUSLOV ASSURED RENOUF THAT MOROZ WAS IN REASONABLE HEALTH AND BEING PROPERLY TREATED. GREEN

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